

CRACKING OF GERMAN DEFENCE POINTS TO RETREAT FROM FRANCE; CENTRE WEAKENS, RIGHT IN PERIL, DESPITE BAYONET CHARGES; REPORT GEN. VON KLUCK MOVES HEADQUARTERS BACK TO MONS

APPEALS TO ALL WORLD AGAINST RUIN OF REIMS

French Government Makes
Protest Against Destruction
of Cathedral.

BOMBARDMENT CALLED AN ACT OF VANDALISM

Library Containing 100,000
Volumes of Rare Value
Also Burned.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
Reims, September 21.

The French Government has made a formal protest to all neutral Powers because of the wanton destruction of the cathedral at Reims by the German artillery.

The protest states that the bombardment of the cathedral, easily discernible to the Germans, was "for the sole pleasure of destroying." President Poincaré's protest says:

"The German troops, without military necessity, but for the sole pleasure of destroying, subjected the Reims cathedral to a systematic and furious bombardment. The famous basilica is now a mass of ruins."

It is the duty of the Government of the Republic to denounce to universal indignation this revolting act of vandalism, which, in giving to the flames this sanctuary of France, represents a heinous and irreparable portion of its historic patrimony."

Several theories are put forward here as to the reason for the bombardment of the Reims cathedral. The three principal theories are: First, that the German army, in the hope of reaching the French people through its Catholic feelings; second, that the act was one purely of revenge after finding that they were unable to reach Paris; and the third is the suggestion that the Germans were simply trying to show the accuracy of their artillery aim.

Hotel de Ville Library Burned.

The opinion is widespread that this act of vandalism will have an immense effect in America and Italy. It is said that the library in the Hotel de Ville was also burned. It contained 100,000 volumes and was one of the richest in literary treasures in the world.

The destruction of the cathedral ranks the greatest horror and indignation. Every man of note here expresses the same sentiment and that is: "No line that can be imposed on Germany for this deed of savagery can recompense the civilized peoples of the world for the incalculable loss. No work of art of real value should be left in the custody of Germans after this war."

The bombardment of the cathedral is regarded as an indication that the German officers consider the retreat of their artillery from the positions commanding Reims as inevitable. They desire, meanwhile, to inflict the greatest damage possible, capture the Campels Hill and the village of Souain east of Reims on the direct road to Châlons and Mezieres and progress along the west slope of the Argonne ridge and thus endanger most seriously the position at the Châlons camp. The French have even advanced some distance beyond Souain.

Expect Early Retreat.

These facts may mean that the Germans have already received from the Châlons camp or that they will do so shortly, partly in consequence of their desire to break the French front on the Argonne, and partly because of the progress made by the French on the banks.

The daily newspaper *La France* records the public horror and wrath over the destruction of the Reims cathedral. "This precious jewel of Gothic architecture there remains but ruins. For such a crime be pardoned? No, a thousand times no. Let there be a holy war that shall conquer at all cost and that shall bring the glorious banner of France to the foot of the Meuse, but Nemesis shall come."

JUSSERAND PROTESTS.

Subjects Message of His Government to State Department.

Washington, Sept. 21.—Ambassador Jusserand delivered to the State Department a message of protest against the destruction of the cathedral at Reims.

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WARREN'S NEW STUDIO.
10 Park Ave. 5th St. Sittings invited—44c.

REIMS CRIES FOR VENGEANCE OF GOD, SAYS POPE TO KAISER

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
ROME, September 21.

THE Pope has sent a despatch to the Kaiser protesting in dignified terms against the ruthless destruction of the cathedral at Reims.

Pope Benedict says this crime cries for God's vengeance. He warns the Kaiser lest the destruction of the Lord's temples provoke the anger of God, against which the most powerful armies are powerless.

The Pope has sent a similar telegram to Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, urging him as a Catholic sovereign to defend his religion.

When the news of the destruction of the Reims Cathedral was conveyed to the Pope he was at first incredulous and said "he could not believe it possible, in an epoch as civilized as the twentieth century, to be plunged back to the time of Attila." When he learned that the report was true he was horrified. He at once instructed Cardinal Ferrata, the Papal Secretary of State, to telegraph to Cardinal Amette, the Archbishop of Paris, for details.

PRIEST TAKING LETTERS HOME SHOT AS A SPY

Abbe Gets Short Trial From
Germans—Seventh Cleric
Slain.

Reims, Sept. 21.—The London Daily Mail.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH FRANCE,
September 20 (Delayed).

Falsely arraigned as a spy, Abbe Delebecque, formerly a professor in the College of Our Lady at Dunkirk, was summarily executed at Valenciennes on Friday morning.

The abbe was returning on a bicycle to his parish at Mainz after a memorial service for his father, who died a month ago. When arrested by a patrol of soldiers he had no incriminating documents, but he carried letters from French soldiers of Dunkirk to their families.

The abbe was tried at midnight by a court-martial composed of officers, who after a trial which was a mockery condemned him to be shot at dawnbreak as a spy. The priest was confined to the care of the German military chaplain and passed the night in praying in one of the waiting rooms of the station.

At 5 o'clock in the morning the abbe was placed in a motor car and taken to the place of execution on the outskirts of Valenciennes. On the way he repeated the prayers for the dying and gave his captors a letter to his mother. Then he knelt in prayer for a moment and soon fell lifeless, pierced by a dozen bullets.

The German first unceremoniously threw the body into a hastily made grave which was not deeper than a foot and a half. A passerby, seeing a portion of a crucifix protruding, placed stones on the grave for a cross and the women of the vicinity covered the grave with flowers. The Abbe Delebecque is the seventh priest in the diocese of Cambrai to be shot by the Germans.

GERMANY.—A report from Berlin says that the army under the command of the Crown Prince yesterday afternoon began an attack on the forts at Verdun. An official statement said that the German attack against British and French troops has progressed and that the Germans have gone forward at several points. The statement also reiterates previous expres-

150 PASSENGERS DIE IN WAR RIOT ON GERMAN SHIP

Crew Attacks French and
Spanish Travellers With
Knives.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

REIMS, September 21.

The Express received the following despatch from Madrid today:

"Many of the 1200 passengers of the steamship Infanta Isabel, which was in Cadiz on September 18, say that they were aboard the steamship Blucher on September 8 when, in the port of Pernambuco, a discussion of the war was started between the passengers and the crew. The latter were all Germans and they became violently angry."

"They attacked the French, Spanish and Portuguese passengers with knives, axes and revolvers, while the engine-room staff squirted boiling water on them. Many passengers jumped overboard through fright. One hundred and fifty passengers had been killed before the local authorities sent soldiers aboard and stopped the carnage."

"The Spanish and Portuguese Consuls afterward arranged to transport 150 of their nationals to the Infanta Isabel."

RENEW DIE WACHT AM RHEIN.

Dutch Ships Stopped as Fortifications Begin, Amsterdam Hears.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

London, Sept. 21.—It is understood in Rotterdam that the Germans are stopping traffic by Dutch vessels in the Rhine. Merchandise billed to Mannheim, Baden-Baden and beyond by Dutch owners and carried in Dutch vessels has been held up.

This would indicate that the Germans are preparing the whole right bank of the Rhine as a possible line of defence.

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

FRANCE.—The allies, according to the communiqué last night, have gained an advantage along the battle front from Reims to the Argonne ridge. The French report the capture of three towns on the western side of Argonne and also of the heights of Lassigny, west of Noyon, and on the right of the German line. There were severe engagements east of the Oise and north of the Aisne. Along this part of the line the Germans displayed renewed activity, and many attacks resulted in bayonet charges.

Ambassador Jusserand filed a protest with acting Secretary of State Lansing at Washington against the destruction of the cathedral at Reims, and President Poincaré directed a formal protest to be made to all neutral Powers against the destruction of this historic structure.

GERMANY.—A report from Berlin says that the army under the command of the Crown Prince yesterday afternoon began an attack on the forts at Verdun. An official statement said that the German attack against British and French troops has progressed and that the Germans have gone forward at several points. The statement also reiterates previous expres-

sions of regret at the necessity for the bombardment of Reims.

RUSSIA.—The Russian cavalry captured the town of Dubiecko on the San River, took several hundred prisoners, several batteries of artillery and wagon loads of supplies. This point is thirty miles west of Przemyśl and marks the furthest advance of the Russian centre against Cracow.

A report from St. Petersburg says that the Russian army has invested the whole fortified line from Przemyśl to Jaroslaw. Sufficient Russian troops have been left to bombard or storm these two fortresses and the main armies have swung around the fortified line and are advancing toward Cracow.

BELGIUM.—The people of Liege have been told by the Germans to move out of the town. The Germans are intruding many of the positions which they held on their advance and it is believed that these works are in preparation for the withdrawal of the German forces operating in France. It is officially announced from Antwerp that Gen. von Kluck, commander of German right wing in France, has made his headquarters at Antwerp.

CZAR TAKES DUBIECKO, ON CRACOW ROAD

Cavalry Moves 30 Miles Beyond
Przemysl, Where
Fight Continues.

GERMAN TROOPS COME TO DEFENCE OF CRACOW

Germans in East Prussia
Pushed Back, St. Petersburg
Asserts.

By Central News of London.

LONDON, September 21.

The Russian Government is informed that Cracow, the gateway to Silesia, is being energetically prepared for defence.

The citizens are being sent westward, the library and the archives have been removed, the forts strengthened and new batteries and trenches have been erected.

German troops are concentrating at Cracow.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

London, September 21.

Russian cavalry captured the town of Dubiecko, on the San River, today, took hundreds of prisoners, several batteries of artillery and wagonloads of ammunition and supplies.

Dubiecko is thirty miles west of the invested fortress of Przemyśl and marks the furthest advance of the Russian centre against Cracow. Already the Russians hold Sniawa, north of Jaroslaw, and Rzesow to the west, while their occupation of Sambor, southeast of Przemyśl, assures them the district important to cut off Austrian reinforcements.

The Austrians are said to be demoralized and desertions are very numerous.

St. Petersburg asserts that the Russian army, while pursuing and breaking up the widely scattered Austrian armies under Gen. von Auffenberg, Gen. Danil and Archduke Charles Francis Joseph, have invested the whole fortified line from Przemyśl to Jaroslaw and have not halted the march toward Cracow.

Hold Road From Lemberg.

These railway lines run from Jaroslaw and Rzesow toward Cracow on the north, and from Sambor toward Sanok and Cracow on the south. In addition the Russians now hold the main causeway from Lemberg to the west. All information from St. Petersburg indicates that the Russian army is gradually forming a junction while completing the rout of the Austrian field forces.

From Paris it is reported that the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Havas Agency sends word of the results of Russian operations in the last three days. Besides a steady advance westward and the capture of several cities the Russians have taken prisoners 15,000 Austrians, including 150 officers, many field guns, machine guns and a welcome supply of ammunition and stores. They have crossed the San River west of Przemyśl despite the efforts of the Austrian rear guard to hold them.

Austrian aviators who flew over the Russian army were brought to earth. In the pockets of a dead aviator were lists of Austrian reserve troops and notes of their position, information of the utmost value to the Russians.

There seems no reason to doubt Russia's statement that the Germans in East Prussia are being pushed back by Gen. Rennenkampf and that the German forces who were invading Russian Poland have had to retire to escape the peril of the Russian advance in northwest Galicia.

The bombardment of Przemyśl, now invested on all sides, and of Jaroslaw, twenty-two miles to the northwest, was continued today, and the Russian Government admits spirited resistance at Przemyśl. The fire of the Russian heavy guns is being returned. It is believed that Przemyśl particularly cannot be taken easily, but the statement is made that the capture of this stronghold is no longer essential to the movement against Silesia and the Breslau-Berlin line.

The Austrian Government refuses to concede that the situation is grave. In an official statement by the War Office

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GERMANS RUSH DEFENCE WORK NEAR BRUSSELS

May Be Preparing for Retreat
From France Through
Belgium.

VON KLUCK MOVES HIS HEADQUARTERS TO MONS

Fortifications Strengthened
While Troops Build New
Line of Intrenchments.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

London, September 21.

There is a growing belief here that the Germans are preparing to retreat from the Aisne for a further determined stand in Belgium.

It is unofficially given out in Antwerp that Gen. von Kluck, commanding the German right wing on the Oise and Aisne, has established his headquarters at Mons, which is in Belgium, and is nearly eighty miles northeast of Noyon, near which the fighting has been incessant.

In addition to fortifications already prepared the Germans are establishing a huge line of intrenchments which run through Mons to a point near Valenciennes. They have erected a semi-circular line of fortifications to the north of Brussels and Louvain. Heavy siege guns are being mounted upon these fortifications and troops are arriving in large numbers from Germany every day.

Such preparations are not necessary merely for use against the comparatively small forces of Belgian troops, because the two, possibly three, German army corps in Belgium have been adequate to keep the Belgians in check. The new defence, therefore, must be designed to protect a retreat.

It appears also that the Germans are about to begin their attempt to take Antwerp. Military opinion is that the Kaiser plans to storm the forts at any cost, but there is perfect confidence that the attempt will fail.

Weather Conditions Unfavorable.

Unusually heavy rains are flooding the country and will greatly handicap the movements of such heavy guns as the Germans depend upon. A great part of Belgium is a veritable swamp and general military operations are regarded as impossible.

The Germans continue to destroy villages in the interior. Near Huy on the den Herz the village of Tremelo was set on fire by a German bicycle detachment. More than 200 houses were burned and the population was forced to take refuge in the fields. Rotselaar, a neighboring town, was partially destroyed by fire.

The terms offered to Belgium by Emperor William through Marshal von der Goltz, governor of the occupied territory, became known today. The proposal was that Belgians would be permitted to resume civil government in all towns from which the Germans withdrew provided that the Germans be permitted to maintain uninterrupted communication with their armies in France.

Reflected by Belgians.

The terms were communicated by Minister Woezels, the former leader of the Catholic party, who remained in Brussels after the German occupation. He was coldly received by the Belgian Government and the terms were refused point blank. The answer of the Government was a sally in force. The influence of Woezels is henceforth at an end.

A further indication that the eyes of the world will shortly turn again to Belgium as the centre of main operations lies in the attitude of the German military governors. Fortifications are being thrown up to the northwest of Liege and the people have been ordered to leave the city. Regulations affecting travellers have increased in severity. Without question the apprehension of the Germans has increased. They have evacuated Termonde and Londerzeel.

It is reported that the Germans returned to Termonde on Saturday and burned the city.

Belgians Recapture Sempt.

By Central News of London.

Antwerp, Sept. 21.—After skirmishes near Sempt today Belgian troops recaptured that town from the Germans. Then engagement near Boomden the Belgians were victors.

Four Germans disguised as Belgians were arrested on a train proceeding from Ghent to Antwerp.

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ENTIRE RIGHT WING OF GERMAN ARMY NOW IN PERIL OF BEING ENVELOPED BY ALLIED FORCES

Operation, if Successful, Will Compel All
Kaiser's Troops to Turn to Flight From
France—Way for Retreat Already
Prepared Through Belgium.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT REPORTS GAIN OF GROUND EAST OF REIMS

British and French Troops Have Reached Heights
of Lassigny. After Heavy Losses—Crown
Prince Prepares to Attack Verdun.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
PARIS, September 21.

Unless all signs fail the beginning of the German retreat from France is in sight.

The Government reports coincide with the opinion of military critics that all along the line German resistance is crumbling before the numbers and spirit of the allies.

The definite result of the ninth day of the battle of the Aisne places Gen. von Kluck, commanding the German right wing, in peril of envelopment. British and French have struggled forward at awful cost to the heights of Lassigny, thus endangering the extreme German right.

East of Reims, in the centre of the battle, the allies are breaching the German line and have driven the Germans from strong positions. The Emperor's troops are receding on the plains of Châlons, stubbornly fighting, but constantly driven. The retreat in the centre adds to the danger of Von Kluck's army and indicates necessity for general withdrawal to a new line of defence, probably in Belgium.

Rainstorms and inclement weather have slackened the battle fury at the east of the line, where the Grand Duke of Wurttemberg and the German Crown Prince are struggling to hold positions. In a final effort to break the Verdun line of fortifications and let through German troops the Crown Prince, heavily reinforced, is reported to be massing an attack against the Verdun fortresses.

FRENCH REPORT ADVANCE EAST OF REIMS TO ARGONNE RIDGE

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, September 21.

The official communiqué issued to-night is extraordinarily brief, but holds subdued optimism within its guarded phrases—the hint that the allies are breaking through the German centre. The text of the communiqué issued at 11:18 P. M. is as follows:

"The fighting to-day has been less violent. We have made noteworthy progress between Reims and the Argonne ridge."

The eagerness of the French public was more substantially fed by the communication of the afternoon. The details, accepted by a public which has perfect confidence in the conservatism and truth of its Government, point distinctly to progress in the allied endeavor to cut off Gen. von Kluck's army. At the extreme left and in the centre the allies have advanced their lines further than ever before. At Reims the Germans have recoiled after the fiercest of infantry attacks and are maintaining the bombardment of the city. Eastward to the Argonne ridge they appear to have been pressed backward. There is no definite news from the Vosges and Lorraine.

The text of the afternoon communiqué, issued at 3 P. M., follows:

"First—On our left wing, on the right bank of the River Oise, we have advanced as far as the heights of Lassigny, west of Noyon. To the east of the Oise and to the north of the River Aisne the Germans have given evidence of a readjustment of activity."

"In the region of Craonne there have been violent encounters which did not stop short of bayonet charges. The enemy has been everywhere repulsed with considerable losses. In the country around Reims the enemy has not undertaken any infantry attack, confining himself to artillery fire directed against our front from heavy guns."

"Second—On the centre, in the

REPULSE MORE ATTACKS.

British Under Gen. French Success.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

London, Sept. 21.—The official press bureau announced this evening:

"Since the last report was received from Gen. French further counter attacks have been made and successfully repulsed."

BERLIN CLAIMS SUCCESS.

Says Allies' Attack of Right Wing Was Unsuccessful.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

London, Sept. 21.—A Central News despatch from Amsterdam brings an official statement issued in Berlin giving the German account of the events of the battle in northern France, beginning with the German withdrawal from the immediate vicinity of Paris. The statement says:

"In the past week the troops of the allies made an attack on the fortified German position between the Oise and the Meuse. The French were protected on the west by the Paris line, and on the east by the Meuse and the Moselle."

"The German troops retired slowly in conformity with the plan of the General Staff until favorable positions were reached. The French, reinforced by troops from Paris and by armies from regiments to the south of Paris, and from Belfort, took the offensive, while guns from Paris were brought up and used in the fighting."

"The plan of the French was to attack the flank of the German right wing. This plan was unsuccessful and the French sustained severe losses. Three